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2292 7590 04/07/2009

BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH
PO BOX 747
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER

ALMATHRAHI, FARIS S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/669,717	09/25/2003	Masanori Yoshida	0879-0417P	6372

TITLE OF INVENTION: CUSTOMER SOLICITATION SUPPORT SYSTEM AND INFORMATION PROVISION SERVER

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	07/07/2009

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

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Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
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I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

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nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	07/07/2009

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
ALMATRAHI, FARIS S	3627	705-028000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

"Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): Individual Corporation or other private group entity Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- Issue Fee
- Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- Advance Order - # of Copies _____

- A check is enclosed.
- Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS; SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH				ALMATRAHI, FARIS S
PO BOX 747		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747		3627		DATE MAILED: 04/07/2009

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)

(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 1053 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 1053 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability	Application No. 10/669,717	Applicant(s) YOSHIDA, MASANORI
	Examiner FARIS ALMATARAHI	Art Unit 3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 12/01/2008.
 2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4,7-16 and 18.
 3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.
- Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.
4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other note regarding accepted Drawings.

Faris Almatarahi
Examiner
Art Unit: 3627

/F. Ryan Zeender/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3627

DETAILED ACTION

DRAWINGS

Drawings submitted on September 25, 2003 are accepted by examiner.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Catherine M. Voisinet on March 27, 2009.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 3, 5-6 and 17 have been cancelled.

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A customer solicitation support system, comprising:
a portable apparatus which is carried by a customer;
a plurality of client computers which are installed in shops and wirelessly communicate with the portable apparatus; and
an information provision server which communicates with the plurality of client computers,
the portable apparatus comprises:

a portable apparatus transmission device which sends desired product information which indicates a desired product which the customer who carries the portable apparatus desired to purchase and customer information for specifying the customer to one of the client computers which is closest to the customer who carries the portable device;

a ~~potable~~ portable apparatus reception device which receives shop information which indicates shops having stock of the desired product indicated by the customer information from said one of the client computers; { Deleted: and }

a portable apparatus display device which displays the shop information which is received by the portable apparatus reception device[[.]]; and

~~a portable device input device which inputs the desired product information associated with the product desired by the customer wherein the portable device input device enables inputting a face image of the customer together with the desired product information and the customer information, and wherein the portable apparatus transmission device sends the inputted face image together with the desired product information and the customer information to said one of the client computers;~~

each of the client computers comprises:

a first client computer reception device which receives the desired product information and the customer information from the portable apparatus;

a first client computer transmission device which sends the desired product information and the customer information to the server;

a second client computer reception device which receives the shop information which indicates the shops having stock of the desired product indicated by the customer information from the server; and

a second client computer transmission device which sends the shop information to the portable apparatus,

the server comprises:

a server reception device which receives the desired product information and the customer information from said one of the client computer;

a customer information database which stores the desired product information in association with the customer information of each customer;

a stock information database which stores stocked product information indicating stocked products of each shop in association with the shop information of each shop in which the client computer is installed;

a retrieving device which retrieves the stocked product information which coincides with the desired product information from the stock information database; and

a server transmission device which sends the shop information associated with the retrieved stocked product information which is retrieved by the retrieving device to said one of the client computers.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) A customer solicitation support system, comprising:

a portable apparatus which is carried by a customer;

a plurality of client computers which are installed in shops and wirelessly communicate with the portable apparatus; and

an information provision server which communicates with the plurality of client computers,

the portable apparatus comprises:

a portable apparatus transmission device which sends desired product information which indicates a desired product which the customer who carries the portable apparatus desired to purchase and customer information for specifying the customer to one of the client computers which is closest to the customer who carries the portable device;

a portable apparatus reception device which receives shop information which indicates shops having stock of the desired product indicated by the customer information from said one of the client computers; and

a portable apparatus display device which displays the shop information which is received by the portable apparatus reception device,

each of the client computers comprises:

a first client computer reception device which receives the desired product information and the customer information from the portable apparatus;

a first client computer transmission device which sends the desired product information and the customer information to the server;

a second client computer reception device which receives the shop information which indicates the shops having stock of the desired product indicated by the customer information from the server; and

a second client computer transmission device which sends the shop information to the portable apparatus;

the server comprises:

a server reception device which receives the desired product information and the customer information from said one of the client computer;

a customer information database which stores the desired product information in association with the customer information of each customer;

a stock information database which stores stocked product information indicating stocked products of each shop in association with the shop information of each shop in which the client computer is installed;

a retrieving device which retrieves the stocked product information which coincides with the desired product information from the stock information database;

a server transmission device which sends the shop information associated with the retrieved stocked product information which is retrieved by the retrieving device to said one of the client computers; and

a customer information input apparatus which comprises:

an input device which inputs a face image of the customer carrying the portable apparatus together with the desired product information associated with the desired product desired by the customer; and

a customer information input apparatus communication device which communicates with the server and sends the desired product information and the face image of the customer inputted by the input device to the server.

Deleted: The customer solicitation support system as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

Deleted: customer information indicating

Deleted: information

Claim 3. (Canceled).

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The customer solicitation support system as defined in claim [[3]] 2, wherein each of the client computers comprises a client computer display device which displays the face image of the customer and the desired product information,

wherein the retrieving device of the server retrieves the stocked product information which coincides with the desired product information sent by the customer information input apparatus from the stock information database, and

wherein the server transmission device sends the face image of the customer and the desired product information to the client computer which is installed in the shop which is indicated by the shop information associated with the retrieved stocked product information.

Claim 5. (Canceled)

Claim 6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The customer solicitation support system as defined in claim [[6]] 1, wherein each of the client computers comprises a client computer display device which displays the face image of the customer and desired product information,

wherein the retrieving device of the server retrieves the stocked product information which coincides with the desired product information from the stock information database, and

wherein the server transmission device sends the face image of the customer and the desired product information to the client computer which is installed in the shop which is indicated by the shop information associated with the retrieved stocked product information.

Claim 17. (Canceled)

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) The information provisions server as defined in claim [[17]] 2, further comprising:

a database management device which manages terms of validity for the desired product information registered in the customer information database and terms of validity for the stocked product information registered in the stock information database, respectively,

wherein the database management device deletes the desired product information from the customer information database if the term of validity for the desired product information has expired, and

wherein the database management device deletes the stock product information from the stock information database if the term of validity for the stock product information has expired.

Allowable subject matter

4. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-16 and 18 are allowed.
5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:
 6. The closest prior art of record are Barnes, Jr. (US Publication No. 2003/0220835 A1) and Iwase et al. (US Publication No. 2002/0165803 A1).

Barnes discloses a system, method, apparatus and computer program product for providing location based functions and mobile e-commerce comprising a central

processing unit including a processor, a storage device, and programming stored in the storage device, a display device, an audio input device, an audio output device, a communications module, a commerce module, an image module, and a location module. The programming controls the operation of the present invention to provide functions based on location data, to facilitate commercial exchanges by wirelessly exchanging payment and product information with vendors, to identify services such as vendors meeting selection criteria, to wirelessly exchange select information with other users and systems, to restrict and/or monitor the use of the device based on authorized user parameters, selecting one of a plurality networks through which to communicate, detecting a trigger for performing an action based on a change in location and sensed data, storing a voice annotation with a computer data file, determining service providers and associated communication parameters, contemporaneously maintaining a wireless voice and data link, providing a system for selecting and delivering mobile advertisements.

Iwase discloses an information processing system for processing information in a shop, the system comprising a portable device possessed by a user and a host computer for communication with the portable device, the portable device comprising: input means for inputting commodity information provided near a commodity or on the commodity, when the commodity in the shop is to be purchased; first memory means for storing the commodity information input by the input means; second memory means for pre-storing user information; totaling means for totaling, when a price of one or more commodities based on one or more commodity information items stored in the first

memory means is to be processed in the shop and if there is the user information in the second memory means, which corresponds to the commodity information stored in the first memory means, the commodity information stored in the first memory means by adding the user information corresponding to the commodity information; and transmission means for transmitting the total information totaled by the totaling means to the host computer

The prior art of record does not disclose or suggest a portable device input device which inputs the desired product information associated with the product desired by the customer wherein the portable device input device enables inputting a face image of the customer together with the desired product information and the customer information, and wherein the portable apparatus transmission device sends the inputted face image together with the desired product information and the customer information. The limitation mentioned above along with the other claimed limitations of independent claims 1 and 2 are novel and unobvious and are deemed allowable over the prior art of record. Dependent claims of 1 and 2 are allowable by dependency.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Faris Almatrahi whose telephone number is (571) 270-3326. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ryan Zeender can be reached on (571) 272-6790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Faris Almatrahi/
Examiner, Art Unit 3627

FA

/F. Ryan Zeender/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3627